

Why do we spend so much time recalling an anticipated happy condition—and forgetting that the very thing we are anticipating can be enjoyed more fully? If each of us could be taught how to appreciate, to be grateful, to enjoy the realized opportunity to have health, security, friends, freedom... mankind would be more at peace.

BOTH YEAR—NO. 1

# This and That

by George R. Averill

If any near-monopolistic segment of American industry or profession did the equivalent of "striking" against the public interest as in the case of the Atlantic seaboard dock workers, Congress would step in with regulatory laws. In the case of labor unions, however, Congress has exempted them from the same monopoly. Why? Simply because of the political strength of labor unions... plus the lack of characterful courage on the part of Congress itself.

American history books refer to the patriotic statesman, one Patrick Henry, of... give me liberty or give me death? fame. Often he argued against having to pay tax tribute to England... and without representation. Well, what we have today he certainly would be well represented... not to overlook well taxed, too.

In some cases, it is the hand that should be rocking the cradle that is trying to rule the world.

Every good Michigan citizen, regardless of political affiliation, ought to wish the Republicans well in their choice of a new State chairman. He is Lawrence C. Lindner, 35-year-old lawyer from Stockbridge. Lindner has taken on a considerable job—whatever he does, it should put the reigning Democrats "on their toes"—and being in this physical and mental position should bring out the best offerings of the party of FDR & HST. That's what the voters want.

Three hundred million U. S. postage stamps got into circulation without good looking qualities. The Dept. called them back and, at a cost of \$30,000, put more stick-on 'em on. Well, at least in government, this was less than peanuts. (Wonder how much one of 'em will be worth 50 years hence in a stamp collector's possession?)

If Virginia's U. S. Senator Harry Byrd successfully called Congress in a five billion dollar reduction in the Federal budget, he should be placed high on the nation's Roll of Honor. No doubt Byrd (and many others) realize that the purely domestic side of this budget, said to be like a really big, said to be by extravagant bureaucrats who depend upon big spending to retain their big powers and good salaries.

## Watch the Weight!

Load restrictions were imposed this week on the Birmingham streets. Maximum weight of 3,000 pounds per axle in effect prohibits all truck traffic in order to prevent unimproved street breakups during the spring thaw.

## At Bedside of Ailing Father

Birmingham City Manager Harold Shone has spent the past week in Kansas City, Kan., at the bedside of his father, Hugo, who is seriously ill.

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# The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1957  
40 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Seven Weekly Publications SEVEN CENTS

# '57 Tax Roll Up 4.35% Reflects New Construction

## Michigan Mayors Paired

Mayors and village presidents of six communities in the Birmingham area learned Monday where they will preside as honorary chief executives on Monday, May 20, in what has become one of the outstanding events of Michigan Week.

Exchange communities were paired at the annual drawing for Exchange of Mayors Day held in Lansing Monday. Presiding at the session was Mayor Anthony Balice of Ionia, chairman of the state exchange of mayors committee.

EACH YEAR, about two months before Michigan Week, the names of nearly 500 cities and villages are placed in a large drum and drawn in pairs by the Governor as honorary chairman of Michigan Week and Lieut. Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives as honorary co-chairmen.

In the drawing Monday, Birmingham was paired with Ionia. Other pairings are Bloomfield Hills with Auburn, Bingham Farms with Morrice, Franklin Hills with Baroda, Troy with Galesburg, and Lathrup with Riverside.

PELLSTON, a town of 442 residents, is 20 miles south of Mackinac Island, Mich., and is 8 miles west of Bay City. Mackinac has 501 citizens and is 12 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie.

Pairings made Monday were on the basis of population, size of town or village, and location. In many instances, the mayor or village president charged in place with the chief executive of one of the smallest cities.

LAST YEAR, Birmingham exchanged with Ionia in the upper peninsula, Franklin with Sutton's Ferry, Bloomfield Hills with North Troy and Lathrup with Pewamo. Exchange chairman Mayor Balice and general chairman K. T. Keller joined in urging municipal officials to start working with their counterparts in Michigan Week exchange on plans for mayor's exchange day.

## County's Chairman For Michigan Week Is Birmingham Man

Thomas F. Wiethorn, 3801 West Lincoln, Birmingham, has been named Oakland county chairman of Michigan Week, which will be observed throughout the state May 19-22.

Wiethorn will correlate Oakland county activities in Region Nine's five county organization. These include Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw and Monroe.

## Commission Learns Remodelling Costs Can't Be Whittled

It still will cost more than \$1,000,000 to remodel the Birmingham municipal building, but city officials and architects have advised Monday night by city officials and architect Linn Smith, that the cost cannot be whittled.

City commissioners agreed they would approve the \$1,000,000 remodeling budget, but they said they would like to see a study made into the possibility of a second floor of offices and city commission rooms.

A NEW \$3,000 electrical service to the building was accepted. By that they said they would take alternate bids each on the proposed \$1,000,000 remodeling of the Birmingham municipal building.

THE CITY HAS about \$75,000 left in the capital improvement budget, but the plans were discussed, the fund was \$85,000.

MOREY'S ARE OPEN



AS THE COMMUNITY House roll call's home solicitations came a close Monday, solicitor Mrs. Bernard Reese, of 1347 Villa (right) turned over her block's 100 per cent response to Mrs. George Ryder, of 1350 Villa, neighborhood captain. The two-year-old Katherine Ryder looks happy to see the funds come in for the "house with a heart."

## Roll Call Campaign Reaches \$40,881 Total

Working toward a goal of \$50,000, the Birmingham Community House roll call drive reached a total of \$40,881 Tuesday night.

Mr. Ewald Schaeffer said the daily mail is still bringing checks resulting from pledges made to solicitors and from families on vacation during the drive.

Roll call directors praised the efforts of home solicitors and emphasized on the effective organization of an area east of Adams and south of Maple, where participation had been sparse up to this year.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jack E. Cieck, of 1350 Villa, the area containing many new homes and families new to Birmingham achieved almost 100 per cent coverage, roll call heads said.

## Hills Police Chief Will Retire July 1

Bloomfield Hills Police Chief Stanley Kevern notified the Hills city commission Tuesday night of his intention to retire on July 1.

Kevern, now completing his 28th year with the force, told the commissioners he was giving advance notice to aid them in making future plans. He joined the force in September, 1929, just two and a half years after it was organized by the then Village of Bloomfield Hills. His department has 10 other members.

JOHN S. HUGAN suggested that the commission find a successor as soon as possible to work with Kevern before he retires. After the general meeting the commissioners went into private session with Kephart and Kevern to discuss the matter further.

Afterward, Kephart emphasized that no successor has been chosen for the commission, but that one year before a decision is made. "Asked if the offices of fire chief and police chief might be combined, as rumored last year, Kephart said that it is a possibility."

## Temple Site Zoning Decision Protested

"With two churches adjacent to it, and a business development just two blocks away on Chesterfield, we can't understand why city officials denied our request to build a new Masonic Temple on the site," Raymond E. Cecil, Masonic Temple building committee member told The Eccentric this week.

Cecil was referring to the property on the southwest corner of Arlington and Maple, just east of the First Methodist church, on which zoning to multiple-family residential use from its present single-family status was denied by city commissioners last week.

A Birmingham real estate man, Cecil said the owners of the lot, Grace G. and Ralph L. Corryell, had been unable to sell the property for a number of years, because "nobody will touch it for building a single family home."

"WHEN THEY DECIDE to build a Masonic Temple on the site, we have no questions left," said Cecil, referring to the city fire station at Maple and Chesterfield. Cecil said he knew of two different Detroit commercial real estate brokers who were looking at the property, studying the zoning restrictions to find out "if they can be beaten."

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## \$2,677,060 More Than Last Year

Birmingham's 1957 tax assessment roll is \$61,457,000, reflecting a 4.35 per cent increase or \$2,677,060 more, over the previous year. City Assessor Clark Hagstrom reported yesterday morning. He said the roll will be reported to the city commission next Monday night after it has gone through the normal double-checking process. Hagstrom said there had been no general increase anywhere this year.

The higher valuation results from the new residential and commercial building here last year, together with adjustments on some existing homes and buildings scattered over the city, the assessor explained.

VALUATIONS represent about 36 per cent of today's market value, or 100 per cent of 1947's value, Hagstrom said. The board of review, which begins Hagstrom included Sherman LaMessure and P. G. Burnett, met Monday and Tuesday to hear property owners.

Only 19 came in, Hagstrom reported, and were told how their assessments had been upped because of additions to or remodeling of their dwellings. Five were businessmen who were interested in their increased personal property assessments.

FOR 1956, Birmingham's tax roll was \$58,759,940. This is the first time roll Hagstrom has been completely responsible for. He helped retiring City Assessor Elmer Haas complete the 1956 year. During the past year, \$2,744,882 of new or altered residential value of new and altered businesses, and \$20,600 of new industrial. This totals \$3,824,750.

## North Evergreen Sewer Authority Is In Existence

North Evergreen sewage disposal authority came into being Friday and has assumed responsibility for operation of Birmingham's disposal plant on Crabhook Road.

City Finance Director James Parkiss said the authority expects to pay the first installment of \$274,000 for the sale proceeds within the month.

Birmingham meantime will provide the money for plant operation with salaries and costs reimbursed by the authority.

The city commission Monday night advanced \$17,000 for plant operation and pre-construction costs.

The North Evergreen, according to DPW Director L. R. Gare, has state approval for the north-south interceptor arm up to Adams and Watlies road. A few financing details still must be resolved, he said, then construction bids will be taken.

THE REMAINDER of the system seems to have tentative approval, Gare said. Troy, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield township also are authority members.

## STRICTLY FRESH

Spring's just around the corner, and the snow that's melting off the roof for fall is just behind spring.

Making the most of a bad situation is duck soup for gossips. You always know what to expect from one fellow in the office.

He has an even temper—it's uniformly bad. You always know what to expect from one fellow in the office. You always know what to expect from one fellow in the office. You always know what to expect from one fellow in the office.

## Though Two Weeks Early, It's Here! It's Spring!

It's only a little bit, but spring is here! Bearer of the glad tidings is Mrs. George H. Bosworth, of 2811 Pembroke, Birmingham, who brought the tiny viola above to voters to approve an increase of up to 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) in the special operating levy.

look at the little harbingers of spring. Julie has a good eye for such things. You can see it if you look through the magnifying glass. Now that the pansy family has broken the ice, we hope all its relatives, big and little, will follow soon. And we'll be listening, too, for the joyous song of the returning birds.

REPORTER JULIE CANDLER (above) uses a magnifying glass to get a good look at the little harbingers of spring.

## Per Pupil Costs Exceeding Gain in Property Valuations

School enrollment and operating costs are rising faster than the tax base in the Birmingham school district, the chairman of the citizens committee on education said this week.

The Gross Pointe situation offers a good comparison with that of Birmingham, but are to be raised to \$4,500 next year. About 50 new teachers will be required—the same number as estimated for Birmingham.

Four weeks ago the committee presented its personnel planning recommendations to the board. These included seven proposals for strengthening the instructional program through the competitive salary structure, improved supervision and other measures for attracting and retaining better teachers, plus two dealing with financing.

Starting salaries in Gross Pointe have been \$4,200, the same as in Birmingham, but are to be raised to \$4,500 next year. About 50 new teachers will be required—the same number as estimated for Birmingham.

The board adopted the recommendations and set March 25—a week from next Monday—for a special election to ask voters to approve a 3.5-mill levy expiring Dec. 31, leaving the district with only a 1.0-mill allocation from the county 15-mill limitation for operation.

MAXIMUM teaching salaries (See PUPIL COSTS, Page 2-A) association.

ENROLLMENTS have outstripped state equalized valuations, the committee's studies show. In the last two years these have resulted in a declining valuation-per-pupil ratio.

Despite the concerted efforts of a 12-man surgical team which performed a delicate heart operation last Thursday, 15-month-old Daniel J. Middleton died a few hours later.

Projections for the next school year indicate that school population will rise 12.4 per cent but that valuations will gain only 10.3 per cent. Longer term estimates show a continuation of the trend.

Dean Cornwell, noted mural painter and illustrator, will present a lecture tonight at the Baldwin library auditorium, under the auspices of the Bloomfield Art Association.

"Consequently," Keigel said, "it is evident that we cannot hope to maintain the quality of our schools even if we had available the 3.5 mills levied last year. Without the 3.5, the situation would be hopeless."

Cornwell has painted murals for the Los Angeles library, Lincoln Memorial, Redlands, Calif., International Labor Organization headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, and Radio City, N. Y.

"AFTER A careful study of what we may expect in higher salaries, allowances for cost of additional new teachers and other personnel and the proposals for improving teaching performance and attracting the best teachers to the community, the committee believes that more than the 3.5 mills we have had for the last five years should be made available to the school board."

A group of Cornwell's illustrations for "The Robe" will be in the retrospective exhibit March 25 through April 25 at the new Bloomfield Art Association galleries at 361 N. Woodward.

## Dies After Surgery, Sister is Recovering

Despite the concerted efforts of a 12-man surgical team which performed a delicate heart operation last Thursday, 15-month-old Daniel J. Middleton died a few hours later.

Danny, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Middleton, 1916 Holland, Birmingham, was operated on Tuesday two days after successful heart surgery to repair a smaller break in the heart wall of his sister, JoAnn, 8.

Doctors told the family that surgery indicated a delicate heart operation last Thursday, 15-month-old Daniel J. Middleton died a few hours later.

A HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN said Tuesday that JoAnn still was in "satisfactory" condition after her less critical surgery. She is expected to leave the hospital for home soon.

Reverend G. Alward officiated at funeral service Saturday at Our Lady of Lathrop church. Interment was in White Chapel cemetery.

Arrangements were by Bell chapel, W. R. Hamilton company.

## Artist Displays Talents Tonight Before Art Club

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